

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 EB-06 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

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R 312139Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TRSY WASHDC

USAGE NKP

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 239738

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:OCTOBER 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

THIEU FIRES THREE OF FOUR CORPS COMMANDERS IN RESPONSE TO
CORRUPTION COMPLAINTS FROM US AND OPPOSITION. 5000 RCS
HOLD ANTI-THIEU DEMONSTRATION. POLICE ARREST 50 NEWSMEN
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PREPARING PROTEST AGAINST CENSORSHIP. ONE REPORT SAYS SIX
CABINET MINISTERS QUIT (WSJ). GVN SOURCES SAY THIEU
IN EFFECT DEMOTED THREE TOP GENERALS AND RECEIVED
RESIGNATION OF SIX MINISTERS, BOWING TO PUBLIC PRESSURE

TO END CORRUPTION AND INCOMPETENCE. GENERALS, ALL THREE-STAR, ARE TRANSFERRED TO ONE-STAR POSITIONS. SOURCES SAY THIEU ORDERED SHAKEUP TO PACIFY OPPOSITION DEMANDING HIS RESIGNATION FOR CORRUPTION, ABUSE OF POWER, AND FAILURE TO END WAR. RESIGNING MINISTERS ARE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE, VETS' AFFAIRS, LABOR, AND PUBLIC WORKS. RESIGNATION OF FM BAC COMES AS "HARD BLOW FOR THIEU" (UPI, BALTO N-A 10/30). SECRET POLICE RAID PRESS CLUB, ARREST 50 NEWSMEN AND SEVERAL OPPOSITION DEPUTIES FOR DEMONSTRATING AGAINST CENSORSHIP. SCUFFLE ENSUES WITH SEVERAL NEWSMEN AND AT LEAST ONE DEPUTY BEATEN. HALF-DOZEN OTHER DEPUTIES COME FROM NATL ASSEMBLY TO HELP COLLEAGUES BUT ARE DRIVEN BACK AND WITNESSES SAY THREE ARRESTED (UPI, PHINQ).

REUTER SAIGON QUOTES CABINET SOURCES' DENIAL OF RUMORS THAT SIX MINISTERS QUIT.

SUN'S ISAACS IN SAIGON SEES SACKING OF THREE POWERFUL GENERALS AS THIEU'S MOST SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION SO FAR TO GROWING PROTEST AGAINST CORRUPTION. PURGE ANNOUNCED BY RADIO AS PROTEST MOVEMENT LAUNCHED TWO-DAY DEMONSTRATION IN CAPITAL. GENERALS WIELDED ENORMOUS POWER, AND TWO WERE WIDELY ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION. TORCHLIGHT PARADE OF ESTIMATED 1500-2500 PEOPLE UNHINDERED BUT VIOLENCE BROKE OUT NEXT DAY WHEN POLICE BLOCKED DEMONSTRATORS FROM MARCHING FROM RC CHURCH TO CITY CENTER. REV. THANH PUNCHED BY PLAINCLOTHESMAN BUT NOT SERIOUSLY HURT, THEN YOUTHS SHOWERED POLICE WITH ROCKS AND BOTTLES AND VIOLENCE CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL HOURS WITH POLICE JEEP BURNED.

ISAACS QUOTES REV. THANH THAT CAMPAIGN "ONLY BEGINNING"; SAYS CLASH WITH POLICE MOST SERIOUS OF TWO-MONTH PROTEST DRIVE AND MAY MEAN END OF POLICE POLICY OF RESTRAINT. NOTES THAT THOUGH WORST VIOLENCE WAS AT CHURCH, SMALLER BATTLES ERUPTED IN OTHER PARTS OF CITY. QUOTES WITNESSES UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT AT LEAST THREE ANTI-GOVT DEPUTIES WERE INJURED IN SCUFFLES WITH POLICE. SEES DISORDERS AS WORST IN THREE YEARS, DEALING WITH FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AND COMING AT TIME WHEN THIEU'S POSITION WEAKENED BY MIL REVERSES, ECON DEPRESSION, AND SHARP CUTS IN US AID.

MCCOMBS (WP) DESCRIBES POLICE CLOSING OFF MUCH OF SAIGON AS PITCHED BATTLES WITH DEMONSTRATORS BREAK OUT IN SUBURBS; AND RAID ON VN PRESS CLUB WITH ARREST OF NEWSMEN AND LEGISLATOR PREPARING TO JOIN RC-LED DEMONSTRATION. AFTER OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE, ACTING ARCHBISHOP OF SAIGON WENT TO SCENE TO ASK OFFICIALS TO LIFT BARRICADES, BUT WAS REFUSED. CLOSER TO DOWNTOWN ABOUT 200 BUDDHISTS

LED BY SEN. MAU CLASHED WITH POLICE; MAU AND OTHERS WOUNDED. LEADER OF ANTI-HUNGER GROUP SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AT ANOTHER BARRICADE. SUBURBAN VIOLENCE CENTERED AT RC CHURCH, WITH CROWD THAT GREW TO 4000, AND THANH AND OTHERS HURT. MCCOMBS NOTES THAT ARRESTED NEWSMEN WERE RELEASED SEPARATELY IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF CITY TO MAKE REGROUPMENT DIFFICULT. HEAD OF VN NAVY REPLACED, SOURCES SAY SIX OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS MOVED, BUT THESE CHANGES NOT RELATED TO CORRUPTION.

NYT'S MARKHAM DISCUSSES TRANSFER OF THREE CORPS COMMANDERS TO TEACHING JOBS, DESCRIBES FIGHT AT RC CHURCH IN SUBURBS. SEES MIL SHAKEUP AS ANOTHER VICTORY FOR BROADENING OPPOSITION COALITION SPEARHEADED BY RC

ANTICORRUPTION MOVEMENT. NOTES THAT REV. THANH SPURNS THIEU'S MOVES SO FAR AS "INSUFFICIENT," AND THAT PRIEST APPEALED FOR NONVIOLENCE AT CHURCH AFTER HE HAD BEEN STRUCK AND INJURED. APPEALS NOT HEEDDED BY YOUTHS WHO CONTINUED CLASH WITH POLICE. MARKHAM SAYS TWO OF THREE SACKED GENERALS WERE PARTICULAR TARGETS FOR CORRUPTION.

DETROIT FREE PRESS' FRANK ANGELO (10/25) WRITES OF SEVEN VIET STUDENTS IN US WHO FACE DEPORTATION BECAUSE SCHOLARSHIPS TERMINATED AT GVN REQUEST, AND PASSPORTS NOT RENEWED. QUOTES ONE THAT THIS HAPPENED WHEN THEY SPOKE OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST GVN REPRESSION. ALL ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, AND HOPE TO MAKE STRONG CASE UNCLASSIFIED

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AT DEPORTATION HEARINGS THAT WILL BE RESUMED IN LA NEXT MONTH. BROTHER OF ONE STUDENT, RESIDENT IN PARIS, SEES C-F IMPLEMENTATION AND THIRD FORCE ROLE AS NEEDED IN SVN, SINCE VAST MAJORITY OF VIETS "ARE IN POLITICAL MIDDLE," BUT "THIEU REMAINS AN OBSTACLE." HE ALSO SAYS COALITION GOVT FOR SVN IS NECESSITY EVEN THOUGH IT WON'T LAST, THAT HAK "KNOWS THE PROBLEM VERY WELL," AND DUONG VAN MINH MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL COALITION TOGETHER SINCE HE IS "SYMBOL OF RECONCILIATION."

SHIPLER (NYT), VISITING LUANG PRABANG, DETECTS SLIGHT ANTI-US AIR, WITH PL SHOWING PROPAGANDA FILMS OF HEAVY US BOMBING TO SCHOOLCHILDREN BEFORE GENERAL PUBLIC SEES THEM. SAYS PL MEMBERS HAVE ENTERED INTO CITY'S LIFE MORE FULLY THAN IN VIENTIANE. QUOTES SOME OF FEW RESIDENT AMERICANS THAT PL NOT DELIBERATELY TRYING TO GENERATE ANTI-US FEELING, BUT "THAT SEEMS TO BE THE EFFECT" AS KIDS MAKE "FUNNY NOISES" ON STREETS OR CHANT AT FOREIGNERS. ONE CIVILIAN, NOT EMPLOYED BY USG, IS CONSTANTLY ACCUSED OF BEING IN CIA, AND ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICANS SEEMS TO CARRY CERTAIN STIGMA FOR LAOTIANS. ATTENDANCE BY LOCALS AT USIA-

FUNDED LAOTIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION HAS DROPPED SINCE PL CAME TO TOWN ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR, WHO ADDS THAT PEOPLE KEEP ASKING HIM WHEN THE LAA IS GOING TO CLOSE. SHIPLER FINDS ATMOSPHERE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT IN VIENTIANE WHERE POPULATION GENERALLY REGARDED AS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PL, AND PL CONTINGENT HAS NOT MADE ITS PRESENCE FELT SO ACUTELY. DESPITE SOME DEMANDS FOR EXPULSION OF FOREIGNERS FROM CERTAIN SKILLED JOBS, ON BALANCE US "AFFLUENCE AND EXCLUSIVITY" ARE TOLERATED. QUOTES INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT PL HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHAT TO DO ABOUT US-STYLE SUBURB AT KILOMETER 6 OUTSIDE OF VIENTIANE.

2. CHINA

ON EVE OF HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY, ROC OFFICIALS SAY GIMO IS IN MUCH BETTER HEALTH THAN YEAR AGO, WHEN HE WAS RECUPERATING FROM LONG BOUT WITH PNEUMONIA. BUT HE HAS DIFFICULTY WALKING OR STANDING FOR LONG, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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NO LONGER TAKES ACTIVE ROLE IN GOVT AFFAIRS (NYT).

ROC'S FIRST F-5E FIGHTER PLANE, MADE IN COOPERATION WITH NORTHROP, ROLLED OFF ASSEMBLY LINE IN TAIEHUNG WEDNESDAY. IN CONGRATULATORY SPEECH, AMB UNGER SAID US-ROC JOINT VENTURE SIGNIFIES CLOSE COOPERATION OF TWO GOVTS, AND "ALSO UNDERLINES THE CONSTANTLY GROWING SELF-RELIANCE" OF ROC "WHICH IS STRESSED STRONGLY BY" CKS (UPI, WP).

LAT'S JOHN DART (OCT 30) REPORTS MAOISM - WHETHER SECULAR OR RELIGIOUS - WAS AMONG SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT FOUR-DAY SEMINAR JOINTLY HELD IN WASHINGTON BY AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION, SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION. SCHOLARS CONCLUDED IT CAN BE CONSIDERED MAJOR NEW WORLD RELIGION, THAT MAO HAS ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A "NEW CONFUCIUS, A COUNTER-CONFUCIUS."

3. JAPAN

GALKIN (SUN), IN REVIEW OF TOHO STRING ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE AT GOUCHER COLLEGE, FOUND PROGRAM "OVERWHELMING IN YOUTHFUL QUALITY OF DISCIPLINED BEAUTY AND CONTROL"; SAYS THERE IS "PROBABLY NO OTHER ORGANIZATION LIKE IT ANYWHERE."

JOC TOKYO REPORTS ON ECONOMY MOVES BY TEXTILE INDUSTRY, SUCH AS EXECUTIVE SALARY CUTS AND LAYOFFS AND TRANSFERS OF WORKERS. WOOL SPINNERS ASSN SCRAPS ONE ILLEGAL CARTEL BUT APPLIES TO FORM NEW ONE TO CUT PRODUCTION BY HALF. CLOTHING MFRS ASK FOR RESTRICTIONS ON

CLOTHING IMPORTS. KANEBO IS LATEST FIRM TO ANNOUNCE 50 PCT CUT-BACK BY CLOSING FIVE PLANTS FOR SIX MONTHS. MEANTIME, BOJ GOVERNOR SAYS RELIEF BEING CONSIDERED FROM EXTREME CREDIT CURBS.

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC EARNINGS SLUMP 23 PCT IN THIRD QUARTER, DESPITE SALES INCREASE (WSJ-TOKYO). SOARING PAYROLLS CITED AS MAJOR FACTOR BY COMPANY PRESIDENT, WHO DECLINES TO MAKE FORECAST FOR CURRENT PERIOD BECAUSE OF "UNSTABLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS." MATSUSHITA EXPECTS UNCLASSIFIED

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SLUMP TO CONTINUE INTO NEXT YEAR, AND PLANS TO TRIM WORK FORCE BY ATTRITION.

KOBE STEEL AND TOKYO BOEKI SET UP JOINT VENTURE WITH QATAR GOVT TO BUILD 440,000 TON CAPACITY STEEL MILL IN QATAR (WSJ - TOKYO).

JAPAN ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT CO. TO BUILD TWO NEW UTILITY STACK-GAS SCRUBBER SYSTEMS, VALUED AT 20 MILLION DOLLARS. ISHIKAWAJIMA HEAVY INDUSTRY, LICENSEE OF GENERAL TIRE AND RUBBER, TO BUILD SYSTEM (WSJ -NY).

RADIO AUSTRALIA REPORTS INDICATIONS JAPAN MAY REOPEN MARKET TO BEEF IMPORTS EARLY NEXT YEAR FOLLOWING NZ PM ROWLAND'S TALKS WITH TANAKA (JOC).

4. KOREA

SUN'S SEIDEN IN SEOUL REPORTS THAT 15 MONTHS OF FORCED SECLUSION ARE TAKING PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL TOLL ON KIM DAE JUNG. HARASSED BY THREATENING PHONE CALLS, DISTURBED BY MYSTERIOUS GUNSHOTS AT NIGHT, CONSTANTLY TRAILED, BUGGED AND PHONE-TAPPED, KIM IS VIRTUAL PRISONER IN OWN HOUSE. HE IS SUFFERING FROM SCIATICA, WITH PARTICULARLY STRONG PAIN IN LEGS. SAYS HE FREQUENTLY TAKES SLEEPING PILLS; HIS FACE APPEARS PUFFY AND AGED, AND HIS MIND WANDERS OCCASIONALLY DURING CONVERSATION. WHILE HE WAS STILL ANXIOUS TO TALK POLITICS LAST SPRING, IN RECENT INTERVIEW HE APPEARED PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS OWN PROBLEMS. KIM ASSERTED THAT HE IS COMPLETELY CUT OFF, CAN'T BE MENTIONED IN NEWS MEDIA, CAN'T GO ANYWHERE OR SEE ANYONE, EXCEPT FOREIGN VISITORS, AND IS AFRAID TO ENTER HOSPITAL FOR FEAR OF BEING DRUGGED, POISONED OR KILLED. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE PRES FORD IN SEOUL BUT REALIZES IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR PROTOCOL REASONS, ADDING, "I SINCERELY HOPE THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS AIDES WILL SEEK TO HEAR MORE VOICES THAN JUST THE GOVERNMENT SIDE HERE."

REISCHAUER AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES PRES CARY

JOIN MORE THAN 40 OTHER SCHOLARS AND CLERICS TO PROTEST
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FORD TRIP TO SK. IN LETTER TO HAK, GROUP CONTENDS "IT
WOULD BE MOST UNDESIRABLE" FOR PRES TO VISIT SK "WHILE
200 PATRIOTS ARE UNJUSTLY HELD IN PRISON" AND WHILE
PARK "CONTINUES TO AFFIRM HIS RIGHT TO SILENCE OPPOSITION
BY ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT, HARSH INTERROGATION, AND
SECRET COURTS MARTIAL." GROUP MAINTAINS THAT FORD
SHOULD CANCEL TRIP UNTIL ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS
ARE FREED, AND MILITARY AID TO SK SHOULD BE REDUCED,
"WITH RESTORATION CONTINGENT UPON IMPROVEMENT IN THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE." AMONG OTHER SIGNERS
OF GROUP, WHICH CALLS ITSELF COMMITTEE ON HUMAN

RIGHTS IN KOREA, WERE: REV MCINTIRE, SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF MARYKNOLL MISSIONARIES; DEAN STENDALL OF
HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL; AND PROF CANNING LEIM OF
NEW PALTZ COLLEGE (UPI, CHITRIB).

5. AUSTRALIA

REUTER CANBERRA REPORTS AUSTRALIA PLANS TO BEGIN
MINING AND MILLING NORTHERN TERRITORY URANIUM DEPOSITS
AND LIFT 12-YEAR BAN ON EXPORTS. HOURS BEFORE ARRIVAL
OF TANAKA FOR TRADE TALKS, MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER
CONNOR TOLD PARLIAMENT FIRST EXPORTS TO GO TO JAPANESE
UTILITIES, AND NEW MILL NE OF DARWIN TO PRODUCE 3,300
TONS OF URANIUM OXIDE BY 1978.

JOC CANBERRA REPORTS DEPUTY PM CAIRNS PLANS VISIT TO
WASHINGTON AND NY IN TWO WEEKS TO SEEK MORE INVESTMENT
IN AUSTRALIA; MOVE SEEN AS SHARP REVERSAL OF EARLIER
LABOR GOVT ATTITUDES.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

6. CHINA

WSJ NOTES THAT PRES FORD TOOK ANOTHER STEP TOWARD
NORMALIZING SINO-US RELATIONS WHEN HE SIGNED BILL
REPEALING FORMOSA RESOLUTION. NOW IT WILL BE UP TO
CHINA TO DEMONSTRATE THAT NORMALIZATION IS TWO-WAY
STREET. CHINA NO DOUBT WOULD LIKE US TO FORCE
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TAIWAN INTO ACCOMMODATION WITH MAINLAND, SAYS
WP, NOTING THAT EVEN INFLUENTIAL AMERICANS HAVE
SUGGESTED THAT US-PRC RELATIONS CAN NEVER BE MORE
THAN LUKEWARM UNTIL TAIWAN IS REUNITED WITH MAINLAND.

HOWEVER, WHAT THESE AMERICANS OVERLOOK, OR ARE UNCONCERNED ABOUT, IS THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THIS WOULD MEAN TURNING OVER SOME 16 MILLION ALLIES TO THE MERCIES OF TOTALITARIAN REGIME. AMERICANS MAY NO LONGER BE PREPARED TO GO TO WAR FOR QUEMOY OR MATSU, BUT NEITHER IS THERE ANY SUGGESTION THEY WOULD APPROVE BETRAYING AN ENTERPRISING AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ISLAND PEOPLE. SOONER OR LATER TAIWAN AND PRC MAY WELL REACH ACCOMMODATION AND WEST SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THIS; BUT RAPPROCHEMENT MUST BE BASED ON MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION, NOT ON ILLUSION THAT SACRIFICING INTERESTS OF SMALLER NATIONS TO APPETITE OF AGGRESSORS IS THE WAY TO INSURE WORLD PEACE.

7. ADB

NYT MANILA SAYS US HAS CAST ITSELF IN ROLE OF BEGRUDGING EX-SPOUSE ALWAYS BEHIND IN ALIMONY WHERE ADB IS CONCERNED. ADB IS RESTING ITS HOPES ON FADING CHANCE THAT 93RD CONGRESS WILL MOVE ON TWO LONG-STANDING FUNDING REQUESTS TERMED VITAL TO BANK'S FUTURE. FIRST INVOLVES US CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUNDS, WHICH HANDLES BANK'S LONG-TERM, LOW-INTEREST "SOFT" LOANS. WHEN BANK DECIDED IN 1968 TO GET INTO THIS "EASY-MONEY" BUSINESS, US WAS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE 200 MILLION DOLS; LATER, AMOUNT WAS SCALED DOWN TO 150 MILLION. LAST YEAR, CONGRESS FINALLY PUT UP FIRST 50 MILLION AUTHORIZED, BUT DID NOT APPROPRIATE, SECOND 50 MILLION INSTALLMENT.

SECOND QUESTION BEFORE CONGRESS IS US PARTICIPATION IN A 150 PERCENT INCREASE IN ADB'S CAPITAL AGREED ON BY MEMBER NATIONS THREE YEARS AGO. ONLY TWO OF 40 ADB MEMBERS HAVE YET TO JOIN IN - W SAMOA AND US. IN THIS CASE, US WOULD BE EXPECTED TO STAND BEHIND CAPITAL BORROWINGS TOTALING 360 MILLION, BUT ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE PRODUCED IN CASH.
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EVEN MORE THAN MONEY, BANK NEEDS EVIDENCE OF US COMMITMENT. NEXT YEAR, IT MUST ASK MEMBERS TO ADD TO ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, WHICH WILL BE EXHAUSTED BY END OF 1975 AND TO FURTHER EXPAND ITS CAPITAL. NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INDICATED THAT CCONTINUING SUPPORT DEPENDS ON US RESPONSE (CARRIED IN TRIB). INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE239738
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740313-0462
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741092/abbrzaao.tel
Line Count: 374
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: jordanll
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by boyleja>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <15 JUN 2005 by bryantcd>; APPROVED <16 JUN 2005 by jordanll>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCTOBER 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TRSY
USSAGE NKP
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JEC PARIS INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD
XMT SUVA
RANGOON
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005